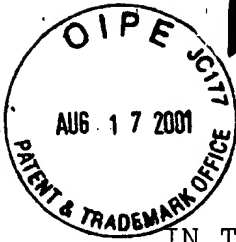


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )  
 )  
Timothy W. SYNOLD, et al. )  
 )  
Serial No. 09/815,300 ) Examiner: To be assigned  
 )  
Filed: March 23, 2001 ) Art Unit: 1635  
 )  
For: METHODS FOR MODULATING DRUG CLEARANCE  
MECHANISMS BY ALTERING SXR ACTIVITY)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendments prior to examination  
on the merits of the above-identified application.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 33, 45 and add claims 63-67 as follows.

A1  
33. (Amended) A method of claim 31 which comprises monitoring  
SXR activity in cells *in vivo* or *in vitro*.

A2  
45. (Amended) A drug identified by a method of any of claims 27-  
31 and 44.

A3  
--63. A method of claim 1 or 4 wherein placental xenobiotic  
exposure of a fetus is altered.